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Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-07 PER-01 PM-04 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

/022 W
---------- 048423
R 080525Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1010
INFO DIA WASHDC
CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 0874

STATE FOR EA, DIA FOR AH, CNO FOR DNI

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJ: RELIEF FOR DEFENSE ATTACHE WELLINGTON

1. I HAVE RCVD WORD THAT NOMINATIONS ARE BEING CONSIDERED AS REPLACEMENT FOR CAPT. E.B. RUBEY, JR., DATT/ALUSNA FOR WELLINGTON, SUVA, AND APIA.

2. I AM MOST CONCERNED THAT THIS IMPORTANT BILLET BE FILLED BY AN OFFICER WHOSE QUALIFICATIONS AND BACKGROUND FIT HIM FOR THE UNUSUAL AND VARIED DEMANDS TO BE PLACED UPON HIM. TOWARD THIS END, I SHOULD LIKE TO BE ASSURED THAT WHOEVER IS SELECTED TO REPLACE CAPT. RUBEY HAS CERTAIN QUALITIES AND EXPERIENCE WHICH I CONSIDER NECESSARY TO PROPERLY DISCHARGE THE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITIES WITH WHICH I WILL CHARGE HIM.

3. ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN US-NZ RELATIONS IN RECENT TIMES IS THE MATTER OF VISITS BY NUCLEAR-POWERED WARSHIPS (NPW). AFTER MUCH EFFORT BY THIS MISSION WE APPEAR ON THE THRESHOLD OF RESUMING NPW VISITS. THE MATTER WILL NOT BE SETTLED HOWEVER UNTIL AN ACTUAL VISIT IS APPROVED AND EXECUTED. THE LABOUR PARTY HAS DECLARED INTENTIONS TO INTENSIFY ITS OPPOSITION TO
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NPW VISITS AND THEY CAN BE COUNTED UPON TO RALLY CONSIDERABLE RESISTANCE. CAPT. RUBEY'S REPLACEMENT WILL FIND HIMSELF

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DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THIS CONTROVERSY WITH MUCH AT STAKE
FOR THE U.S.

4. SINCE HE WILL BE DEALING ALMOST DAILY ON A FACE-TO-
FACE BASIS WITH SENIOR NAVAL OFFICERS OF LONG EXPERIENCE
AT SEA IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THE ALUSNA HAVE BEEN QUALIFIED
FOR COMMAND AT SEA AND HAVE SPENT A GOOD SHARE OF HIS
ASSIGNEMENTS AT SEA. HE SHOULD HAVE A FIRM AIR ASW
BACKGROUND AND BE AWARE OF ASW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SURFACE
FORCES. THE OFFICER ASSIGNED SHOULD BE PROMOTIONALLY
COMPETITIVE AND NOT ON A TWILIGHT TOUR AWAITING RETIREMENT.
HE MUST, OF COURSE, BE A NAVAL AVIATOR SO AS TO HANDLE
AVIATION MATTERS WHEN THE AIR ATTACHE MAY BE ABSENT.

5. IT IS VITAL THAT THE DATT BE CAPABLE OF INDEPENDENTLY
MANAGING THE ACTIVITIES OF HIS PEOPLE IN TASKS OFTEN OUTSIDE
THEIR NORMAL MILITARY FIELDS. HE MUST THEREFORE HIMSELF
HAVE A CONSIDERABLE BACKGROUND IN JOINT MILITARY AFFAIRS
WORKING WITH ALL SERVICES. PARTICULARLY VALUABLE INTHIS
REGARD WOULD BE EXPERIENCE IN POLITICAL-MILITARY ARENA
SUCH AS ATTENDANCE AT A SENIOR WAR COLLEGE, DUTY ON A JOINT
OR INTER-AGENCY STAFF, OR SIGNIFICANT POST GRADUATE STUDY
IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. IT WHOULD GO WITHOUT SAYING THAT
THE DATT NEEDS A SOLID BACKGROUND IN INTELLIGENCE SINCE
THIS WILL BE HIS PRIMARY DUTY. A PROVEN SUB-SPECIALIST
WITH SIGNIFICANT INTEL ASSIGNMENTS SHOULD BE A MINIMUM
REQUISITE.

6. SINCE WELLINGTON IS A SMALL POST, REMOTE FROM OTHER
US MILITARY FORCES, THE DEFENSE ATTACHE WILL BE EXPECTED TO
EXHIBIT A FINE SENSE OF MATURE INDEPENDENT JUDGEMENT BASED
UPON EXPERIENCE. I MUST FREQUENTLY RELY ON THE DATT TO
MANAGE MOST CRITICAL AND DELICATE TASKS AS EXEMPLIFIED
BY THE NPW MATTER. CONSEQUENTLY, I MUST INSIST THAT I
CAREFULLY REVIEW THE QUALIFICATIONS OF CAPT. RUBEY'S REPLACE-
MENT TO ASSURE MYSELF THAT HE HAS THE NECESSARY QUALIFICATIONS
AND IS INDEED THE RIGHT OFFICER FOR THIS UNIQUE ASSIGNMENT.
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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